passed to memory **640**, embedded processor **620** operates to identify whether the digital

audio data has been encoded according to one of multiple audio or video coding schemes

(710). If embedded processor **620** identifies that the received digital audio data has been

encoded, embedded processor **620** subsequently classifies which particular coding

scheme was used **(715)**. In one embodiment, embedded processor **620** utilizes the earlier

described version field **522** provided within the digital audio data packet to identify and

classify the presence and type of data encoding. According to one embodiment of the

present invention, once embedded processor **620** identifies that a particular encoding

scheme was used, embedded processor **620** accesses memory device **640** or similar

equipped memory device to retrieve an appropriate CODEC **(720)** with which the digital

audio data is decoded **(725)**. In the case that the digital audio data is compressed,

embedded processor **620** further operates to decompress the digital audio data. Once the

digital data has been decoded and/or decompressed, or if the data was not encoded or

compressed to begin with **(710)**, the digital audio data is passed to audio converter **630**

where the digital audio data is then converted to analog audio **(730)**. Once the digital

audio data has been converted to analog audio, the analog audio is passed through audio

output ports **632** and **633** **(735)**.--

IN THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (Amended) In an audio-rendering device, a method comprising:

receiving at an audio-rendering device, data comprising digital audio data

transmitted across a network from an audio host;

determining whether received digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two coding schemes;

selecting a decoding scheme based on the one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded;

decoding the encoded digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme; and

converting the received digital audio data to analog audio for output.

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

3.   (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising encoding the digital audio data at the audio host.

4.   (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein determining whether the received digital audio data is encoded according to one of the at least two coding schemes comprises determining whether the received digital audio data is encoded according to coding schemes including mp3, wav, au, and aiff.

5.   (Unchanged) The method according to claim 1, wherein receiving digital audio data comprises receiving a plurality of digital audio data segments and reconstructing the digital audio data from the received plurality of digital audio data segments.

6.   (Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein determining whether the received digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two coding schemes comprises identifying an indicator code included within at least one of the plurality of digital audio data segments.

7.   (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

determining whether the received digital audio data is compressed; and

decompressing the compressed digital audio data based upon the selected decoding scheme.

8.   (Amended) The method according to claim 7, further comprising providing as output the analog audio to an amplification device.

9.   (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the digital audio data is received across at least one of a plurality of networks including a phoneline network, a powerline network, and a HomeRF network.

10.   (Amended) An audio-rendering device comprising:

a network interface to receive digital audio data transmitted over a network from an audio host;

a processor coupled with the network interface to:

determine whether received digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two coding schemes, and

select a decoding scheme based on the one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded;

decode the encoded digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme; and

a converter coupled to the processor to convert the received digital audio data to analog audio for output to a speaker proximate the audio-rendering device.

Please cancel claim 11 without prejudice.

Please cancel claim 12 without prejudice.

Please cancel claim 13 without prejudice.

14.　(Unchanged)　The digital-to-analog audio bridge according to claim 10, further comprising a read only memory coupled to the processor to store at least one CODEC.

15.　(Unchanged)　The digital-to-analog audio bridge according to claim 10, wherein the processor decompresses the digital audio data if it is determined that the digital audio data is compressed.

16.　(Amended)　A residential network audio system comprising:

a host device disposed in a first location to transmit digital audio data over a network; and

an audio-rendering device disposed in a second location, communicatively

coupled with the host, to receive the digital audio data transmitted from the host,

determine whether received digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two

coding schemes, select a decoding scheme based on the one of at least two coding

schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded, decode the received digital

audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme, and convert the received

digital audio data to analog audio for output to a speaker proximate the audio-rendering

device.

Please cancel claim 17 without prejudice.

18. (Amended) The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein

the network comprises a network including at least one of a phoneline network, a

powerline network, and a HomeRF network.

19. (Amended) The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein

the audio-rendering device is further disposed to:

determine whether the received digital audio data is compressed; and

decompress the compressed digital audio data in accordance with the selected

decoding scheme.

20. (Unchanged) The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein the digital audio data is transmitted according to the real-time transport protocol (RTP).

21. (Amended) An article comprising a machine readable medium having a plurality of machine readable instructions stored thereon, wherein when the instructions are executed by a processor, the instructions subscribe the processor to:

receive digital audio data;

determine whether received digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two coding schemes;

select a decoding scheme based on the one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded;

decode the encoded digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme; and

convert the received digital audio data to analog audio for output to a speaker.

22. Please cancel claim 22 without prejudice.

23. (New) The article of claim 22, wherein the machine readable instructions that, when executed, subscribe the processor to receive audio data comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the processor to receive digital audio data transmitted across a network from an audio host.

24. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein converting the received digital audio data to analog audio for output comprises converting the received digital audio data to analog audio for output to a speaker proximate the audio-rendering device.

25. (New) A method comprising:

providing an indication, within at least one of a plurality of data segments, whether digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two coding schemes; and

transmitting the plurality of data segments to an audio-rendering device.

26. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein providing the indication, within the at least one of the plurality of data segments, whether the digital audio data is encoded according to the one of the at least two coding schemes comprises providing an indicator code within the at least one of the plurality of data segments.

27. (New) A method of claim 6, further comprising:

selecting the one of the two coding schemes based on the identified indicator code.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein selecting the one of the two coding schemes based on the identified indicator code comprises:

accessing a lookup table that includes entries for the at least two coding schemes;

comparing the identified indicator code to the entries in the lookup table; and

identifying an entry in the lookup table that corresponds to the indicator code,

wherein the entry is the coding scheme by which the received digital audio data is

encoded.

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